



# GDF Suncoast Puppy Raisers Newsletter

July 2016



## Puppy Saturday Meeting

**Date:** July 9, 2016

**Where:** Diane & Glen Anderson's  
166 17th Ave. NE

**Time:** 10:00am – 12:00pm

**Picnic Lunch immediately following meeting**

Hi Everyone,

It's that time once again for our annual pool party and picnic at the home of Glen and Diane Anderson. Although the object of the meeting is to relax and enjoy the swimming pool with our pups, it is also our intent to refresh everyone's memory about pool safety and supervision.

After a dip in the pool, we will head to the beach. The Anderson's live a few blocks from the bay where we can give our pups a salt water experience. Upon returning, we will hose off the pups and get ready for a picnic lunch. Glen is our grill master and Diane takes care of the rest. Any one is invited to bring a dish to share, but an RSVP is greatly appreciated so we can be sure to have enough for everyone. Please RSVP directly with the Anderson's at: 727-989-9653.

**Directions:** From 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S., head towards the bay. At Beach Drive, turn left, go five blocks and turn left onto 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. One block and 2 houses down on the left is puppy party central. Be sure to have swim ware and towels for both you and your pup. See you there!

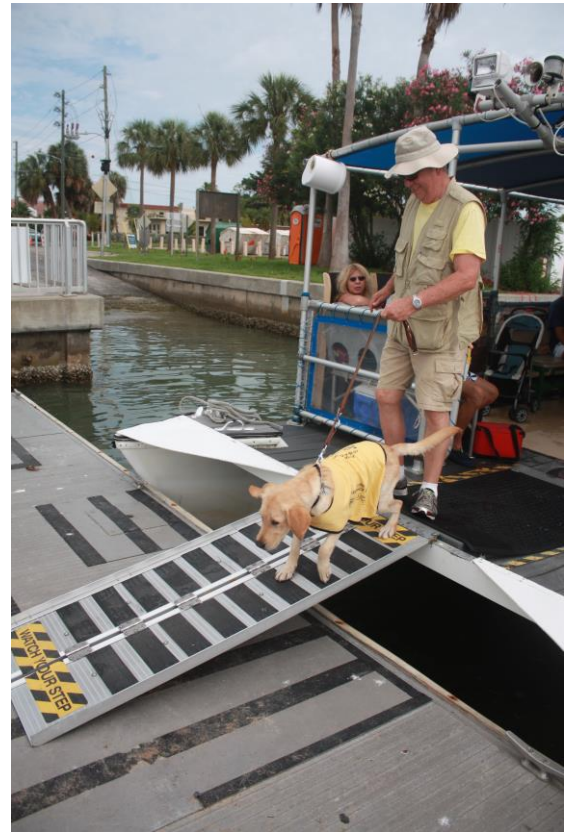
## *Last Month*

We had quite a hot but enjoyable day at Clearwater Beach last month. Taking advantage of the free parking in downtown Clearwater, we took our pups aboard the water taxi and headed to the beach. Of course we stopped to cool off and had some beverages before heading to catch the water taxi back. Most of us decided that the walk was so hot we needed to refresh ourselves again with lunch before we headed back. I think the dogs were grateful as well. We returned back to our cars just before the afternoon thunder storms rolled in. We all decided that this meeting had a lot of unique exposures such as metal ramps to get on and off the boat, hot sand and pavement, and dealing with cramped quarters in the restaurants, that we will add this exposure to our annual meeting list.

On Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the pups got a special tour of the Raymond James Financial Art Museum. Donna Thompson was our Docent and here is how she summarizes the collection: "The Tom and Mary James/Raymond James Financial Art Collection, one of Florida's largest private art collections, consists of over 1,800 works of art. It includes original paintings, sculptures, and graphics. More than 90% of the collection is owned by Tom James, Executive Chairman of Raymond James Financial, and his wife, Mary James. Mr. James has selected almost every piece of artwork himself. While some of the artists in the collection are now deceased, he believes buying works from living artists helps to sustain them in their profession." I don't know how much the pups got out of it, but I thought the tour was very interesting. We did get the dogs attention when we went out into the courtyard where there is a sculpture of a puppy playing tug of war with some kids. Many of the pups ran up to investigate but lost interest when they realized the statue didn't move or have any smell.



While this outing was just another day in the life of our puppies, I know one person with whom we left a lasting impression. While heading down from the 9<sup>th</sup> floor, we had about 8 people and six dogs tightly packed into the elevator when it stopped on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor. I was ready to here “OMG, I’ll take the next elevator” but instead we heard, “OMG, this is my dream come true to be stuck in an elevator with a bunch of dogs!” She was even more excited when we got to the first floor where we met up with the rest of the group that went down before us. She was in a sea of pups and admiring them the whole way through to exit. Thank goodness the pups were on their best behavior so we left a positive lasting impression.



Mike with Walter B not so sure he wants to get on the Ferry but happy to get off at last month’s meeting.

## *In for Training*

We only have one dog returning to New York and she is not returning for training. She is returning to become one of GDF’s premiere breeders, Carmon, raised by Eileen Newsome. In June, Eileen and Carmon were in New York visiting when Carmon unexpectedly went into heat. It was a few weeks before her scheduled call back but it was easier to leave her in a temp home in New York instead of having her return to St. Pete just to be transported back again. Eventually, Carmon will be placed in her permanent new home. Congratulations Carmon, we know you will make some beautiful puppies, and congratulations Eileen, your about to become a grandmother!

Up until this week, we thought Beatrice and Essie, raised by Donna and Don Thompson would be returning in July. But as things change, both of them have been postponed until the next call back. Essie, we knew was going to be held back because another Poodle from another group took her place. Beatrice’s postponement was entirely unexpected. The Thompson’s just received word that a GDF trainer resigned to take a new position elsewhere. So 4 of the youngest pups in the callback, including Beatrice, will not go in until next month. Although this puts a little crimp in the Thompson’s travel plans, they will work it out somehow. Just a BIG reminder that, things change and it pays to be flexible!



Carmen with Julie back at GDF, Photo by Eileen



## Training Tip – Greeting

The main function of being a puppy raiser is getting your puppy out into the public. The hardest part about being in the public is when and how much should we let our puppies greet others. This depends on the age of the puppy and how confident the handler feels they can control the situation.

At first, we want the puppies to associate going out as a positive and fun experience. We allow the public to greet the puppies if they are in control, and then only a light touch on the chest. As the puppy matures, we have less contact but expect our puppies to exhibit more self control. If the puppy is overly excitable, it is okay for the handler to just say a polite “not right now” we are doing some training. As the puppy approaches 10 months, it is at the handlers discretion, but never while the pup is in coat. You will have to take the coat off and then a low keyed encounter.

Most guide dog owners are very strict about letting their dogs be touched. The sooner the puppy learns that once the coat goes on they are working and not to be distracted the better. This will help them better focus on their advanced training. I used to use the following guide line, “while my dog was in motion, no stopping for greeting.” If I’m just standing around and my dog is lying down or sleeping, then a short greeting is allowed.

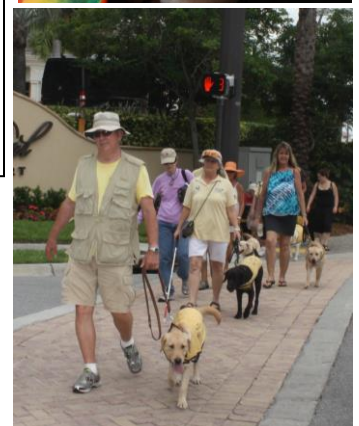
Every dog and situation is different. Go with your best instinct at the time. Continue to consult your puppy manual and feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Deana wanted us to remind everyone about Fireworks. Most of you will be getting this on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July but here is what Deana asked to pass on to all of you: With July 4 around the corner, please take all safety precautions needed to ensure you and the dogs are not injured. Also, the dogs should not be taken to any fireworks show. If you do notice any fear reactions to the noise, please get a video and email it to your AC ad I. July 4 and New Year have the highest number of dogs that run away out of fear and are lost. Please be sure the collars are on correctly and you have a good hold of the leash.

We hope to see you all on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Have a Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Happy Birthday USA! Since we have room will add pictures from this month’s meetings below. You’re A/C’s Debbie and Chuck Hietala



Clock wise from left, Carmen on her way to NY Photo Eileen. A wet ferry ride to the beach, Frenchy’s Beach Bar, Don and Mike taking a break, whole group taking a relief break all at Clearwater Beach.







All pictures  
this page  
Suncoast  
Puppy Raisers  
at Clearwater  
Beach &  
Raymond  
James during  
June  
meetings.



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